Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles comprises

bismuth layer compound containing at least Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element composed of Sr and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 0.8 to 4.7 μm.

2. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 1, wherein said $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Sr_\alpha Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$, and "α" satisfies $\alpha = 1-\beta$, "β" satisfies $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.50$ and "γ" satisfies $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.50$.

3. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.

4. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric substance formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1.

5. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 4, wherein a maximum value Q_{max} of "Q" ($Q = |X|/R$, wherein "X" is reactance and "R" is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of

thickness vertical vibration at 24 MHz is 8 or larger.

6. (Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles comprises

bismuth layer compound containing at least Ca, Ln (note that Ln is a

lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element

composed of Ca and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 1.0 to 4.5 μm.

7. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 6, wherein said

$M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Ca_{1-\beta}Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$, and "β"

satisfies $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$ and "γ" satisfies $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.20$.

8. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 6~~ or 7~~,

wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.

9. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric substance

formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~claim 6.

10. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 9, wherein a maximum

value Q_{max} of "Q" ($Q = |X|/R$, wherein "X" is reactance and "R" is resistance) between a

resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of

thickness vertical vibration at 60 MHz is 6 or larger.

11.(Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles comprises

bismuth layer compound containing at least Ba, Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element composed of Ba, Sr and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn and an oxide of Ge as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 0.4 to 3.2 μm.

12. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Ba_{1-\alpha-\beta}Sr_\alpha Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$, and

"α" satisfies $0.1 \leq \alpha \leq 0.6$, "β" satisfies $0.05 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$ and "γ" satisfies $3.90 \leq \gamma \leq 4.30$ in said composition formula.

13. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 11 ~~or 12~~, wherein

a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO, and

a content of said oxide of Ge is 0.05 to 0.5 wt% in terms of GeO_2.

14. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric substance formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~<u>claim 11</u>.

15. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 14, wherein a maximum value Q_{max} of "Q" ($Q = |X|/R$, wherein "X" is reactance and "R" is resistance) between a

resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to the fundamental wave of thickness-shear vibration at 8 MHz is 23 or larger.